

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments is courteously solicited.

Applicant now presents new claims 23-29 for the examiner's consideration. It is respectfully submitted that claims 23-29 patentably define over the art of record for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

In accordance with the method of the present invention as now set forth in independent claim 23, the method for removing an artificial fingernail is characterized in that absorbent (2) contains no solvent (such as acetone) before use of the remover. Just before use, a suitable amount of solvent as required is supplied into the receptacle. Independent method claim 23 sets forth the following:

"...dropping a solvent through the opened end in said receptacle to impregnate said solvent into said absorbent..."

This feature is neither taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art references. According to the present invention, the method of the present invention is characterized by the following advantages. Firstly, the fingernail can be easily pinched between the fingers of another hand from outside of the receptacle upon removal of the artificial fingernail because the receptacle is formed of a flexible very soft resin sheet. Secondly, there is easy preparation in transportation of the removers. Thirdly, there is no risk of leakage or evaporation of solvent from the remover as solvent is supplied through an opening in the receptacle just before removal of the fingernail. Fourthly, as a result of the foregoing, there is no need for a perfectly sealed structure along the periphery of the receptacle. Fifthly the amount of solvent required is easily

adjustable by simply adding additional drops during the "dropping step". Lastly, the remover of the present invention has received significant commercial success.

None of the references cited, nor applied by the examiner in the last office action teach or suggest the addition of solvent just before inserting a user's finger into the cavity for removal of an artificial fingernail. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 and claims 24-29 which depend therefrom patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
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